

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF JAPAN'S POSITION ON GIFA NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN REVIEW OF PRESS ARTICLES OVER THE PAST WEEK A WEAKENING OF JAPAN'S POSITION CONCERNING GIFA NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG IS EVIDENT CULMINATING TODAY IN FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE ARTICLES IN AT LEAST FOUR JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS AND IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE JAPAN TIMES. THESE ARTICLES ATTRIBUTE FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES AS INDICATING RECOGNITION OF THE 200-MILE FISHERY ZONE OF THE USG IS UNAVOIDABLE AND THAT JAPAN MAY BE ON THRESHOLD OF CHANGING ITS FISHERY POLICY ON A BROAD SCALE INCLUDING CHANGE IN ITS OWN LAWS ON EXTENDED JURISDICTION. INTRA-GOVERNMENT VIEWS WILL BE UNIFIED AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTIONS. THE ARTICLES POINT OUT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING RAPIDLY TO MORE WIDE ACCEPTANCE OF EXTENDED JURISDICTION. THIS CHANGE AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET UNION OF THE U.S. 200 FISHERY ZONE HAS LEFT JAPAN WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ACCEPT THE U.S. POSITION. THESE ARTICLES INFER ALSO THAT THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION NOW FOR JAPAN IS TO

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SEEK DIET APPROVAL NEXT YEAR OF THE U.S. POSITION AND

WORK TOWARD OBTAINING SUBSTANTIAL ALLOCATIONS OF RESOURCES
IN THE U.S. FISHERY ZONE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THESE
REPORTS ARE BASED ON PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY VICE
MINISTER SATO ON NOVEMBER 29. GIST OF THAT BRIEFING WAS
THAT U.S., CANADA, MEXICO, EC AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE
ENFORCING A 200-MILE ZONE AND THEREFORE IT CAN BE
SAID THAT THERE IS A GENERAL TENDENCY TO ESTABLISH AND
RECOGNIZE SUCH ZONES. HOWEVER, JAPANESE POSITION THAT
THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE DECIDED IN THE LOST CONFERENCE
HAS NOT CHANGED. SATO WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT, SINCE
STICKING ONLY TO THAT PRINCIPLE COULD JEOPARDIZE INTERESTS
OF JAPANESE FISHERMEN, GOJ MAY HAVE TO TAKE
A FLEXIBLE POSITION. IN ANY EVENT, JAPANESE POSITION
WILL BE DETERMINED
BY GOJ AS A WHOLE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL THEN STATED THAT THERE IS
NO CHANGE IN JAPAN'S POLICY REGARDING FISHERIES. WE
ASKED IF THAT MEANT THAT, SO FAR AS JAPAN IS CONCERNED,
NEXT ROUND OF FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS BEGINS WHERE LAST
ROUND ENDED. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AGREED.
HODGSON

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